(c) During 1996-97 seven assignments have taken up for organisations outside SAIL. Details are as under :

Sl. No.	Assignment Title	Organisation
1.	Testing of Coal Samples	Sesa Kembla, Goa.
2.	Pilot Scale testing of Foreign coal samples.	VSP, Visakhapatnam.
3.	Testing of coal Samples.	Friends coal, Dhanbad.
4.	Testing of Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	HPCL, Bombay.
5.	Testing of 4 Rust Preventive Oil Samples.	IDC Ltd. R & D Faridabad.
6.	Consultancy for Caliberation of CSR-CRI Equipments.	Sesa Kembla, Goa
7.	Decrepitation test of SMS Grade Limestone samples.	RSMD Jodhpur.

Limited number of Assignments are pursued for outside parties, because the in-house requirement of R & D in SAIL itself is quite substantial. However, depending upon the requests from outside parties, such arrangements are taken up to the extent possible.

Joint Venture Railway Services

3582. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a joint venture Railway Services is being introduced in Goa Sector;

(b) if so, the details of passenger amenities and expenditure incurred;

(c) whether the Government propose to examine the feasibility of introducing such services from Mangolpuri to New Delhi Railway Station:

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Certain services with cost sharing arrangement between Goa Government and Konkan Railway Corporation are being proposed including on Karwar-Pernam section. Konkan Railway Corporation has also accepted the offer of M/s. Patil Tours & Travel Pvt. Ltd. For ownership, marketing and management of Tourist Train for Mumbai-Goa-Madgaon Circuit for a period of 15 years.

(c) to (e) No joint Venture train services are proposed between Mangolpuri and New Delhi due to technical reasons.

Subsidy on Liquid Fuel

3583. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to withdraw subsidy on liquid fuel imports required for proposed power plants;

(b) whether the withdrawal of subsidy will push up power rates effecting the common man; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) to (c) Pricing of liquid fuel imports for power plants would be outside the administered pricing mechanism and would not be linked up with Oil Pool Account. The Prices would be based on international prices, and would not have any element of subsidy. A Planning Commission study had shown that at the locations studied, liquid fuel based power plants would be at the more expensive end of the available options. However, these plants can be commissioned within a much shorter time compared to power plants based on conventional fuels.

Captive Thermal Power Stations

3584. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of contracts awarded for setting up captive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country;

(b) whether these are based on the use of washeries rejects as fuel or on normal coal;

(c) if so, the estimated capital required for investment on these projects;

(d) the progress made so far in setting up the captive thermal power stations in the various mining areas; and

(e) the reasons for delay in taking up the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) The names of contracts awarded for setting up aptive thermal power stations of 10 to 20 MW in the mining areas of the country by M/s Coal India Limited are as given below :

Sl. No.	Site	Capacity (MW)	Awarded to
1	2	3	4
1.	Rajrappa	1x10	M/s DLF Power Ltd.
2.	Bhojudih	1x10	-do-
3.	Gidi	1x10	-do-
4.	Madhuband	2x10	-do-

1	2	3	4
5.	Gidi (Extn.)	1x10	M/s Daya Technical Services Pvt. Ltd.
6.	Sudamdih	2x10	-do-
7.	Dugda	2x10	-do-
8.	Piparwar	2x10	M/s Daya Engin. Works

(b) All these are based on fuel as washery rejects/low Gross Calorific Value Coal.

(c) The estimated capital requirement for projects are Rs. 35.00 crores each for Rajrappa, Bhojudih and Gidi, Rs. 37.5 crores for Gidl (Extension) and Rs. 75.00 crores each for Madhuband, Sudamdih, Dugda and Piparwar project.

(d) For Rajrappa and Gidi projects, Civil works are in progress and major equipments have been ordered, for Madhuband project, activities like soil testing and levelling of site have been started, for Piparwar and Gidi (Extension) projects, parties have been asked to take possession of land and for Bhojudih, Dugda and Sudamdih projects, these plants can be set up after getting permission from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) for wheeling out power from DVC grid.

(e) As per section 18 of the DVC Act, permission is to be obtained from DVC for setting up captive power plants in their command area. DVC gave permission for setting up of captive power plants at Rajrappa, Gidi, Bhojudih, and Madhuband in June, 1996, but did not give permission for wheeling out surplus power. This required further discussion and re-negotiation with the entrepreneurs. Further, the entrepreneurs had to undertake hydrological surveys for driving tubewells to provide the required water.

[Translation]

Termination of Services of Temporary Employees by SAIL

3585. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Steel Authority of India Ltd. Delhi is terminating the services of its temporary employees without serving any prior notices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the category-wise number of employees whose services have been terminated so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (d) Depending upon its requirements, Steel Authority of India Limited, Delhi, engages a few persons on a temporary basis, by contract for specified periods, from time to time. On completion of the specified period of contract, the same lapses unless renewed.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Socio-Educational Development Centre

3586. SHRIMATI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Council for Advancement of Peoples Action and Rural Technology (CAPART) for providing financial Assistance to socio-educational development centres;

(b) the institutes in Andhra Pradesh that received the financial assistance from CAPART during the last two years;

(c) whether some irregularities have been noticed in their working; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) CAPART provides financial assistance to voluntary organisations having at least three years experience after registration as a society under the Societies Registration Act of 1860 or under the corresponding State Act, or as a Trust registered under the Indian Trusts Act, 1882 or the Charitable and Religious Trusts Act, 1920, for undertaking rural development projects as per its guidelines.

(b) During the last two years, the number of voluntary organisations of Andhra Pradesh assisted by CAPART and the number of projects sanctioned to these voluntary organisations were as under:-

Year	No. of Voluntary organisations assisted	No. of Projects sanctioned
1995-96	219	255
1996-97	316	365

Note : Provisional.

(c) and (d) Some of the voluntary organisations assisted by CAPART in Andhra Pradesh have come to adverse notice of CAPART. As on 15.7.1997, CAPART has blacklisted 23 such voluntary organisations in Andhra Pradesh.

Probe into Affairs of NISCOM

3587. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has urged the CBI to thoroughly probe into the affairs of National Institute of Science Communications;